

FESTIVALS & EVENTS
Come celebrate with us!



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
Always a production!



DINING & LODGING
Hospitality awaits you!



SHOPPING
Discover the uncommon!



OUTDOOR RECREATION
Nature's our backyard!



Destination Franklin
Franklin, PA
Always Eventful!



THE FRANKLIN SPIRIT Alive Downtown!

You won't find cookie-cutter stores in Franklin! And you can't visit this charming little town without making a few new friends...two of the many benefits that make the historic town of Franklin, PA, the county seat of Venango County in the Oil Heritage region, a delightful destination for day-tripping shoppers or week-end travelers.

Franklin offers a vibrant blend of the old and new along Liberty Street, a beautifully restored corridor and the heart of downtown—listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



The thoughtful design of Franklin's business and residential district provides picture-postcard appeal, while showcasing one-of-a-kind boutiques within distinctive 1800's architecture. Expansive manicured parks host year-round special events, the civic theatre offers non-stop quality productions, and downtown houses a museum of antique calliopes. Eateries feature a wide selection from pan-seared oysters to your favorite family fare. For the curious traveler or the serious sightseer, quaint and well-appointed Bed & Breakfasts are just a minute's walk to it all. Embraced by rolling hills and the scenic Allegheny River, Franklin is earning its reputation as a warm, friendly town with big-city vision.

Discover FRANKLIN, PA! www.franklinpa.gov

SHOPPING

From rare books and custom framing to exquisite jewelry and urban chic fashions—a shopping excursion in downtown

Franklin is sure to unearth lots of delightful surprises! Discover daily-roasted gourmet coffees at an internet



“Shopping should be an experience... and fun. If it's different, we'll try to carry it.”

N. Volmrach, Boutique owner

café, imported yarns in a busy knitting studio, unique children's gifts, and hard-to-find antique collectibles. Friendly storekeepers will greet and treat you the way you remember the 'old days'... and don't be surprised if an occasional door stays open a little past closing if you're still browsing.

DINING & LODGING

As you explore Franklin, you'll find friendly service wherever you choose to dine or sleep.

Be our guest for a peaceful getaway at an elegant Bed & Breakfast—filled with Victorian charm and modern amenities. These handsomely restored homes are a short walk to shopping, dining, and entertainment. Take a bike ride on a river trail and be back in time for tea!

Other lodging accommodations include an attractively-appointed downtown hotel—equipped for



large groups—family motels in the area, and a County Park for overnight camping.

You won't leave hungry... there's great family dining, healthy gourmet fare with al fresco seating, and a lively tavern with the best chicken wings in town!



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Culture abounds downtown...whether it's a large-scale musical or youth theatre production at the state-of-the-art Barrow-Civic Theatre, an intimate coffee house reading, outdoor art fairs, a dance extravaganza, or a concert of national talent.

Bandstand Park is packed when the much-loved Franklin Silver Cornet Band plays on Thursday nights. Founded in 1856, it's one of the oldest volunteer



bands in the country. A true small-town experience!

And you can always catch a tune at DeBence Antique Music World—a unique, whimsical museum of over 100 antique mechanical instruments, many quite rare.

“We have a couple of three-generation families playing in the band right now.”

P. Green, Band member

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Special events are Franklin's signature! Catch the energy of this small town as it stages large-scale festivals and other fun, cultural activities throughout the entire year.

Drawing up to 100,000 visitors from the tri-state area, *Applefest*® is the region's largest, most anticipated annual festival. For three days, beginning the first Friday in October,



downtown hums with excitement as hundreds of vendors sell everything from apple dumplings to arts and crafts. And the antique car show is legendary!



Locals will tell you that nothing compares to the magic of *Light-Up Night*, heralding the holiday season with spectacular fireworks—or the splendor of *Franklin On Ice*, with fanciful ice sculptures displayed throughout Fountain Park.

When the town's in bloom, *May Garden Mart* in the park is the place to fuel your gardening passion. In August, *A Taste of Franklin* is a delicious opportunity to sample the fare of the area's restaurants, delis, and caterers. The festival also offers live music, antiques, and kids' activities. At the *Rock In River Festival*, Franklin celebrates the area's natural resources, while hosting the PA Stone Skipping Championship. Oh, and you can't miss our weeklong 4th of July celebration! FRANKLIN TRULY IS A SMALL TOWN WITH GREAT FESTIVALS!

ARCHITECTURE

Franklin treasures its rich historic and architectural heritage! Many who prospered from the area's great oil boom of the mid-1800s built remarkable structures downtown—and lived in stately homes throughout the bordering neighborhoods.

A walking tour is the best way to see the town's extraordinary wealth of architectural styles—ranging from Italianate, Colonial, Classical, and Queen Anne to English Cottage, Greek and Gothic Revival. In Franklin you'll find every major architectural style used in western PA from 1830 to 1930...one reason it's often called the Victorian City.

Slip into St. John's Episcopal Church and take in 30 brilliant, authentic Tiffany stained glass windows. A complete collection of this size is one of just a few worldwide.



“The area's loaded with outdoor recreational possibilities, but the town alone is worth the trip.”

J. McNutt, Visitor



OUTDOOR RECREATION

A stone's throw from downtown Franklin is an all-season natural playground. Woodland rail trails with picturesque river views offer over 50 miles for hiking, biking, and rollerblading. In nearby State and County parks, enjoy camping, picnicking, swimming, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, and small game hunting.



Abundant wildlife still makes its home here. The Allegheny River and pristine, bio-diverse French Creek—with trout, smallmouth bass, muskellunge, catfish, and walleye—are an angler's paradise.

Bring or rent a boat, kayak, or canoe and you're likely to spot a bald eagle, blue heron, river otter, or white-tailed deer.

Franklin's rolling hills also provide a fine selection of public golf courses.

GETTING YOU HERE...

NORTH - From Erie, PA: Interstate 79 South to Route 322 East (Meadville Exit). Follow Route 322 East into downtown Franklin.

WEST - From Youngstown, OH: Interstate 80 East to Barkeyville, Franklin-Oil City Area exit. Route 8 North to downtown Franklin.

SOUTH - From Pittsburgh, PA: Interstate 279 North to I-79, North to I-80 East to the Barkeyville, Franklin-Oil City Area exit. Route 8 North to downtown Franklin.

EAST: I-80 West to Barkeyville, Franklin-Oil City Area exit. Route 8 North to downtown Franklin.

ARCHITECTURE For history lovers!

